

CLIFF DWELLERS' NATIONAL PARK.

JANUARY 23, 1901.—Committed to the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union and ordered to be printed.

Mr. LACEY, from the Committee on the Public Lands, submitted the following

REPORT.

[To accompany H. R. 13071.]

The Committee on the Public Lands, to whom was referred the bill (H. R. 13071) to set apart certain lands in the Territory of New Mexico as a public park, to be known as the Cliff Dwellers' National Park, for the purpose of preserving the prehistoric caves and ruins and other works and relics therein, beg leave to submit the following report, and recommend that said bill do pass, with amendments as follows:

In line 6, page 4, insert after the word "visitors" the following: "and he may, under such rules and regulations as he may prescribe, permit grazing therein."

In lines 17 and 18, page 4, strike out the words "and approximately of the same value."

The purposes of this bill are fully explained in the communications of the Department of the Interior and Commissioner of the General Land Office, as follows:

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR,
Washington, December 8, 1900.

SIR: I have the honor to inclose herewith a copy of a letter of the 27th ultimo from the Commissioner of the General Land Office to the Department, together with its inclosure, a draft of a proposed bill he has caused to be prepared to set apart certain lands in the Territory of New Mexico as a public park, to be known as The Pajarito National Park, and containing cliff dwellers' ruins.

The letter of the Commissioner sets forth the great historic and scientific value of the region, embracing about 153,620 acres, covered by the bill, and the necessity for the preservation and protection of the prehistoric ruins with which it abounds from spoliation and destruction, as well as the desirability of early action in creating the park.

I concur in the views expressed by the Commissioner and recommend that the bill be enacted into law.

A like communication has been addressed to the chairman of the Committee on Public Lands, Senate.

Very respectfully,

E. A. HITCHCOCK,
Secretary.

The CHAIRMAN OF THE COMMITTEE ON THE PUBLIC LANDS,
House of Representatives.

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR, GENERAL LAND OFFICE,
Washington, D. C., November 27, 1900.

SIR: I beg to invite attention to the order by the Department, under date of July 26, 1900, directing the temporary withdrawal from settlement, entry, sale, or other disposal, of all the vacant, unappropriated public lands within the limits of the proposed Pajarito National Park, containing extensive cliff dwellers' ruins, near Espanola, N. Mex., pending determination of the question of the advisability of recommending the creation of the said park, under which order the temporary withdrawal of the lands in question was duly effected by this office on July 31, 1900.

I now have the honor to again lay before the Department all the papers in the case for consideration of the question of the advisability of setting the land apart as a national park.

The official report made thereon by Detailed Clerk James D. Mankin, of this office, under date of December 4, 1899, states, in regard to the district, as follows:

"The region referred to is a tract lying between the Rio Grande del Norte on the east and the base of the Rocky Mountains on the west, the Chama River on the north and the Rito de los Frijoles on the south. It is, approximately, 30 miles in length and 15 miles in width. It may be easily reached from the town of Espanola, on the Denver and Rio Grande Railroad, 34 miles north of the city of Santa Fe.

"An examination of the physical features of the country shows it to be a plateau varying from 6,000 feet in altitude on the east to 9,000 feet on the west. The northeastern portion is covered with excellent grama grass and scattered cedar and pinon. The southeastern portion is covered rather thickly with small cedar and pinon, while the entire western portion is covered with a heavy growth of pine, spruce, and fir.

"The entire plateau is evidently of volcanic origin, a stratum of light volcanic tufa, varying in thickness from 50 to 300 feet, being still in place, overlying a great part of the tract. In the part lying north of the Juege Canyon (also known as Cow Creek) the stratum of volcanic tufa is for the most part eroded away, leaving at the base of the mountains and extending out for some miles upon the plateau, high mesas of tufa, varying from half a mile to several miles in length, from a few yards to probably half a mile in width, and from 100 to 300 feet high. South of the Juege Canyon the stratum of tufa covers the entire plateau from the base of the mountains to the Rio Grande, and is deeply seamed by many canyons and canoncitos, which cutting through the stratum of tufa, leave it exposed in perpendicular walls. The district is traversed by the canyons of the Santa Clara, Chupaderos, Juege, Alamos, Sandia, Pajarito, and Frijoles, besides many lesser canyons and canoncitos, and is on the whole one of great scenic beauty.

"The district is chiefly noted for the remains of prehistoric civilization with which it is covered. These ruins were examined at length and the following classification made of them:

"First. *Cliff dwellings*.—These dwellings are of the type known as cave dwellings and cavate lodges, the latter type largely predominating. In the perpendicular faces of the cliffs, usually those facing the south, the dwellings are to be found. They are most numerous in the mesas of the Shufinne, the Puye, the Chupaderos, the Alamos, the Sandia, the Pajarito, and the Frijole. From a single eminence on the Pajarito the doors of more than two thousand of these dwellings may be seen, and the number in the entire district would reach tens of thousands. If arranged in a continuous series they would form an unbroken line of dwellings of not less than 60 miles in length. It will be seen that the vast number of dwellings found in the entire district were capable of sheltering a population of from one hundred to two hundred thousand people. Usually the dwellings were excavated many feet above any landing, so that originally they were entered by means of ladders. In the highest cliffs, as, for example, those of the Puye, two terraces are found, with from two to four dwellings superimposed one above another. The chambers are irregular in arrangement, size, and structure. Usually there is a main living room, back of which are from one to four smaller rooms. The walls contain various niches, alcoves, and fireplaces, and in most cases are thickly coated with smoke. Many are plastered with clay on sides and floor, and some have been repaired with crude masonry. A series of views showing elevations, doorways, and details of these dwellings is attached to this report.

"Second. *Large communal houses*.—On the mesas above the cliffs, usually occupying the most commanding of sites, many ruins of large stone communal dwellings exist. They were built of cut stone, rudely dressed, and were doubtless two, and, in some cases, three stories high, and built somewhat after the manner of terraced houses of some of the Pueblo Indians of the present day. On emptying some of the rooms of the debris contained therein, it is found that the well-built walls exist in an almost perfect state of preservation to a height of from 5 to 8 feet. The rooms vary from 10 to 14 feet in length and from 5 to 10 feet in width. Fireplaces, doors, and the

small portholes which served for windows are intact, and the walls, which are plastered with adobe, are well preserved. Several of these great communal dwellings were visited which doubtless contained from one thousand to two thousand rooms each. Several were built in the form of a great quadrangle; others are irregular in form. The inner court usually contains one or more kivas or estufas (underground council chambers), while several more are usually grouped about the outer walls.

"Third. *Defensive outposts.*—Occupying usually the valleys below the cliffs, but sometimes the mesas above, are many smaller ruins, built of cut stone, and similar in construction to those described above. They must have contained originally from ten to fifty rooms each, were rectangular, circular, or irregular in construction, and are not in as good state of preservation as are the large ruins.

"Fourth. *Boulder-marked sites.*—Scattered over the face of the country, usually near the ruins described above, are numerous circular mounds of stone from 10 to 20 feet in diameter. The significance of these mounds would, at present, be simply a matter of conjecture.

"Fifth. *Burial mounds and crypts.*—Contiguous to the stone ruins on the mesas, and also in the face of the cliffs, numerous burial mounds and crypts are to be found. These have been, for the most part, unmolested. In some that have been opened numerous skeletons are exposed.

"Attention was given to the remains of the primitive arts and handiwork of the original inhabitants of the dwellings, and to all evidences of their culture that still remain. For this purpose three rooms and a portion of a fourth in the large stone ruin on the Puye mesa were emptied of the debris contained therein, and the following specimens found in the debris and upon the floors:

"(1) Articles in stone. * * *

"(2) Articles in clay. * * *

"The pottery is for the most part well preserved, artistic in form and ornament, ancient in pattern, but very difficult to excavate intact.

"(3) Articles in wood. * * *

"Another important evidence of the culture status of the original occupants of these ruins is to be found in the pictographs, which are very numerous on the face of the cliffs of the Puye. They consist of etchings in the rock, usually above or near the doorways, but sometimes on interior walls. A series of photographs of these characters is hereto attached. The etchings show evidence of very great age. They may be classified as follows:

"(1) Human figures.

"(2) Animal designs.

"(3) Conventional designs.

"An examination into the title to the lands in this tract shows that it is for the most part Government land, and that no interests involved can possibly be injured by reserving the lands as a national park.

"The existing ruins are of such a character as to be of unusual interest to the general public when made easily accessible. As a field for scientific research it is invaluable. In view of its great interest to the public, its value from a scientific standpoint, the necessity of protecting and preserving the valuable timber thereon, and the fact that vandals and idle curiosity-hunters are rapidly destroying material that can never be restored, I deem it of great importance, and would respectfully recommend that the lands containing these ruins be reserved as a national park; that to insure the care and preservation of the ruins and the timber a custodian be appointed and instructed to immediately stop and prevent further vandalism. It should be the duty of the custodian also to see that the boundaries of said reservation be properly marked and made known; to prepare maps for the use of the public, showing points of interest and facilities for reaching the same; to supervise excavations and researches that may be permitted by the Government to reliable scientists and scientific, historical, and educational institutions or associations; to prepare bulletins and reports from time to time pertaining to researches and discoveries made therein, and in every way possible promote the value of the park in the interests of the public and of scientific investigation."

On March 1, 1900, Mr. Mankin reported further in this matter, as follows:

"Since submitting my report, I am credibly informed that irresponsible parties are making preparations to invade the territory in the early spring with a view to opening the rooms of the communal dwellings and exploring the caves for relics.

"In order to prevent further devastation, I respectfully recommend that early action looking to placing the same in reserve be taken and a custodian be appointed."

I am also in receipt of a report from the acting secretary of the Smithsonian Institution, dated December 22, 1899, stating as follows:

"I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your communication of the 11th

instant, transmitting a copy of the report made under date of December 4 by Mr. James D. Mankin, of the General Land Office, upon the cliff dwellers' ruins in the vicinity of Espanola, N. Mex., in which recommendation is made that the lands containing these ruins be reserved as a national park. After carefully considering this report, I beg leave to say that I am in full accord with the recommendations made by Mr. Mankin, which, if carried out, will result in the preservation for educational purposes of the most extensive system of cave dwellings known. I would especially call attention to the recommendation of the appointment of a custodian of the tract in question, as the reservation of the area on which the dwellings are situated can not alone prove a bar to the vandalism which is rapidly destroying these interesting remains."

In regard to the status of the lands in question, the records of this office show as follows:

The Cochiti and the Canada de Cochiti claims (consolidated), containing 104,554 acres, have been confirmed for 5,000 acres only, and that in locating the grant the whole or part of the 5,000 acres may possibly be taken from the south border of the proposed park. The remainder of the lands are vacant public lands, with the exception of a small land grant and a few scattering tracts covered by settlement and other claims.

The proposal to set this region apart as a national park in order to properly protect and preserve these prehistoric ruins meets with my hearty approval, and I have accordingly prepared and submit herewith the draft of a proposed bill to that effect. The boundaries of the park are indicated on the map accompanying Mr. Mankin's report of December 4, 1899, and also on the inclosed map of the Territory of New Mexico.

The estimated area of the park is about 240 square miles, containing about 153,620 acres. The southwestern portion of this region, township 18 north, ranges 5 and 6 east, lying west of the Ramon Vigil grant, is known to this office to contain cliff dwellers' ruins and other antiquities of great interest, and the same has accordingly been included in the boundaries of the proposed park, although, owing to the inaccessibility of the region, the location of these ruins is not indicated on the inclosed map of that district.

Mr. Mankin's report of December 4 states:

"I would suggest as a suitable name for said reservation the title 'Pajarito National Park,' the 'Pajarito Canyon' (pronounced pah-har-ee-toe, meaning a small bird or sparrow) being the central and dominant feature of interest in the tract."

I have accordingly designated the reservation "The Pajarito National Park."

I desire to further invite attention to the fact that, since Mr. Mankin's report of December 4 states that the entire western portion of this region "is covered with a heavy growth of pine, spruce, and fir," which forms the watershed of numerous tributaries of the Rio Grande del Norte, the establishment of this national park will doubtless serve an added purpose in conserving the water supply of that region.

The need for promptness of action in creating this park, urged in the above-mentioned report by Mr. Mankin, dated March 1, 1900, is further attested by the accompanying letter received, under date of October 26, 1900, from the president of the New Mexico Normal University, Hon. Edgar L. Hewett, stating as follows:

"I believe more earnestly than ever in the desirability of creating this into a national park under the protection of the Government. At no time in the history of that region has such wanton vandalism gone on as during the past summer. Irresponsible persons have destroyed valuable burial mounds, destroyed the walls of buildings, and much priceless material has been broken up. That which has been taken out and sold is, of course, not absolutely lost, for it usually finds its way into museums.

"I trust you are still interested in the matter and are preparing to press the question of setting this aside as a national park in Congress the winter."

Very respectfully,

BINGER HERMANN, *Commissioner.*

The SECRETARY OF THE INTERIOR.

The question as to the proper boundaries of the proposed national park was orally brought to the attention of the Secretary of the Interior, and thereupon further communications from that Department were received, which we incorporate in this report.

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR,
Washington, December 19, 1900.

SIR: Adverting to departmental letter of the 8th instant to you, wherein I inclosed a draft of a proposed bill to set aside certain lands in the Territory of New Mexico as a public park, to be known as the Pajarito National Park, and containing cliff-dwellers' ruins, I now have the honor to inclose herewith a copy of a letter of the 14th instant from the Commissioner of the General Land Office relative to the lands covered by the bill.

There is embodied in the Commissioner's letter a supplemental statement by Mr. James D. Mankin, who, as a detailed clerk of the General Land Office, made the report of December 4, 1899, relating to the region containing the ruins, and who has suggested to the Commissioner that the boundaries of the proposed park remain as originally recommended.

The Commissioner has, in view of the statement of Mr. Mankin, recommended that the park boundaries be defined in accordance with the recommendation in his report of the 27th ultimo, a copy of which is now before you.

I concur in the recommendation of the Commissioner.

Very respectfully,

E. A. HITCHCOCK,
Secretary.

The CHAIRMAN OF THE COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC LANDS,
House of Representatives.

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR, GENERAL LAND OFFICE,
Washington, D. C., December 14, 1900.

SIR: In compliance with your verbal request for a more specific description of the lands embraced within the proposed Pajarito National Park in the Territory of New Mexico, which formed the subject of my letter to you of November 27, 1900, I have the honor to transmit herewith a supplemental statement, made December 14, 1900, by James D. Mankin, of this office, who, as a detailed clerk, made the report in the case to this office on December 4, 1899.

This supplemental statement shows in regard to the lands, as follows:

"The report of December 4, 1899, refers to the northeastern portion as being covered with excellent 'grama' grass. The extreme northeastern portion of the proposed reservation—that is, the portion lying north of the Santa Clara grant—was not visited by me; my information relative to that portion was obtained from the Indians and from citizens in the vicinity of Espanola, and was to the effect that that section also contained the remains of cliff or cave dwellings and communal buildings on the mesas.

"The locality examined by me personally on which grama grass was found would be more accurately described as the north central portion. There the grass is found on the narrow strip of high land lying between the numerous canyons, shown by the map which accompanied my report of December 4, 1899.

"In view of the fact that little or no water is found in the bottoms of the canyons bordering these mesa lands I am of the opinion that the grass found on the mesas would be of little value for grazing purposes. In my travel over same I saw but few cattle, no herds, probably not more than a hundred or a hundred and fifty head all told. I saw no sheep and only two very small herds of goats.

"To the best of my recollection there are only nine homesteads on the whole tract embraced in the proposed park area, and none of the settlers appear to be engaged in the grazing business except for domestic purposes.

"The timber mentioned as growing on the western portion should, in my opinion, be carefully preserved for the protection of the few streams that afford water to that section.

"The necessity for preserving the extreme southwestern portion—township 18, ranges 5 and 6—is that some valuable specimens of hand work by the prehistoric inhabitants is contained thereon, notably two stone lions cut in the solid rock. The section is unsurveyed, uninhabited, and only slightly explored. A scientific search will probably discover many relics of the unknown people who formerly inhabited that country.

"I would respectfully suggest that the boundaries of this proposed park remain as originally recommended."

In view of these statements it does not appear advisable to exclude any of the lands recommended in Mr. Mankin's report as desirable to embrace within the proposed park. I accordingly recommend that the boundaries of said park be defined in accordance with the recommendation based on said report in my letter of November 27 last, laying the case before the Department.

Very respectfully,

BINGER HERMANN,
Commissioner.

THE SECRETARY OF THE INTERIOR.

Your committee have considered the proposition and believe that it would be a wise act to preserve these remains. They are fortunately situated in a dry climate, where the elements act slowly in the work of destruction.

The remains include picture writings, carved stone lions, cliff houses, cave dwellings, and community houses. The land lies at an altitude of from 6,000 to 9,000 feet above the sea, and the climate for a summer outing is as delightful as any in the world.

There are many of these ruins elsewhere in New Mexico, Arizona, and Colorado, but there is probably no locality in which so extensive remains are found in so small a space. It is estimated that there are tens of thousands of these ancient structures, and that from one eminence 2,000 of these dwellings may be seen. Some of the communal residences are two or three stories high and contain from 1,000 to 2,000 rooms each, with underground council chambers.

Use of the grass within the proposed reservation, your committee thinks, can be made without impairing the uses of the park, provided suitable regulations against vandalism shall be made by the Secretary of the Interior, and we therefore have recommended that permits for grazing may be issued.

Each generation usually destroys the works of its ancestors. Modern Rome is built out of the remains of the ancient city. In the United States the prehistoric works of the aboriginal races have rapidly disappeared under the hand of the white race.

In the Pajarito region a very large quantity of these relics remain, because the aridity of the climate has prevented general settlement, and without injury to the living we can preserve these remarkable memorials of the dead.

While the name of the proposed park, Pajarito, suggested by the Department of the Interior, is musical, there is nothing in it suggesting the purposes of the proposed park, as the word means "little bird." It would be commonly mispronounced by English-speaking people, and we deemed it best to adopt a name which carries with it the purpose and object of the proposed reservation.